

2. On a New Species of Gazelle living in the Society's Menagerie. By Sir VICTOR BROOKE, Bart., F.Z.S.

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(Plate XXII.)

The Society has lately received from Muscat\* a pair of Gazelles (male and female), which differ distinctly from the *Gazella arabica* of Hemprich and Ehrenberg, of South-western Arabia. This species, at the time I read my paper on this group (P. Z. S. 1873, p. 535), I believed to be the only representative of the genus *Gazella* found in Arabia to the south of 28° N. lat.



Horns of *Gazella arabica*.

Instead of the massive, nearly straight, non-lyrate horns of *Gazella arabica* (see figure)†, the horns of the Muscat Gazelles are rather slender, compressed from side to side, and distinctly lyrate, their points being turned boldly forwards and inwards, the form being thus excluded from the non-lyrate subsection *b'* of my analytical list (*l. c.* p. 537), which contains *Gazella arabica*, and placed in the subsection *a'*, which contains the species with lyrate or semi-lyrate horns.

In their general appearance, also, the Muscat Gazelles differ

\* [The male was presented by Major C. B. Evan Smith, 15th August, 1873. The female was deposited by Mrs. Harris, 26 September, 1873.—Ed.]

† See also the specimen from Mocha figured by Mr. Blanford (*Geol. and Zool. Abyss.* p. 261, pl. i. fig. 3).

decidedly from *Gazella arabica*. In the latter the hair is short, close-set, and of a rich grizzled bay; whilst the coats of the Muscat Gazelles are remarkably long and soft, and of a very beautiful silvery grey colour. In size they are inferior to *G. arabica*, and in delicacy of form and beauty even exceed that lovely species. From *G. dorcas*, to which species they bear more resemblance, the Muscat Gazelles differ in their smaller size, in their very different and much darker colour, and in the intensity of the facial and lateral markings. These differences can be appreciated at a glance in the Society's Menagerie, where the two species are represented in adjoining yards.

I propose to confer upon this species the name of *Gazella muscatensis*.

For the explanation of the terms used in the following description, and for the exact value I attach to the term "species" as applied to the different modifications of *Gazella*, I must refer to my former paper on the genus.

GAZELLA MUSCATENSIS, sp. nov. (Plate XXII.)

Hair very soft and long. Central facial band rufous fawn on the forehead, becoming darker as it descends, forming a distinct dark nose-spot. Light facial streaks very distinct, running over and stopping immediately above the eye, white; dark facial streaks distinct, black, becoming more rufous as they approach the angles of the mouth. Spot under and behind the eye, space round the muzzle, chin, throat, breast, belly and rump white. Dark lateral band very distinct, grizzly black. Knee-brushes and tail black. Neck and limbs below the carpal and tarsal joints fawn-colour, this colour being almost rufous on the limbs. Back, sides, and haunches silvery grey. Horns rather slender, compressed laterally, strongly and closely annulated, with their points in both sexes turned inwards and forwards. Ears long. Size inferior to that of *Gazella dorcas*.

*Hab.* Muscat.

A large number of skeletons of Gazelles received lately by Mr. Edward Gerrard from North-eastern Africa (which specimens Mr. Gerrard, with his usual kindness, has given me every facility for examining) have shown me an error in my former paper which I am anxious to take this opportunity of correcting. At page 552, I thus write:—"In no existing Gazelle have I as yet been able to discover the smallest trace of the external digits in either extremity." I now find from an examination of rough uncleaned specimens that in *Gazella sœmmeringii*, *G. lævipes*, and *G. isabella*, long filamentary second and fifth metacarpals are present, but no sign of the corresponding metatarsals. The unequal phalanges of the external digits of the hind extremities appear to be also represented. The delicacy and rudimentary condition of these bones causes them to be frequently lost in Museum specimens.